

**The Story of the 1973 New Trier East Indians**  
**By Gary Sarnoff**

**Part I**

*"The more I'm around coaching, the more I am convinced that attitude is more important than ability."*

*--Eugene "Chick" Cichowski*

"Hi Coach, how's the team looking for next season?"

How many times does a coach hear this before the season? In 1973, the head coach of the New Trier East Indians didn't have an answer, but had a response.

"I just don't know what kind of team we'll have."

Next question: "Any chance of an encore performance of the 1972 season, when the Indians won the Suburban League Championship for the first time since 1962?"

"We lost a lot of people (to graduation). We didn't play a lot of juniors last year because our games were close," answered Eugene "Chick" Cichowski, who was about to begin his third season as head coach at New Trier East.

Next question: "The Chicago sportswriters have ranked your team as high as fifth in their preseason polls. Doesn't this mean that your 1973 team will be great?"

"That first game is going to answer a lot of questions about our season," the coach replied. "I hope the kids realize that (New Trier) West has a good team. It could be stronger this year than last. Bob Naughton has most of last year's team returning. We don't.

"The biggest thing we have going for us is attitude. The group is the best attitude-wish-that I ever had."

It was Cichowski who had instilled that attitude three years before. After this group played their final game of a disappointing freshman season, they met their future coach when turning in their uniforms and equipment. As they dropped their jerseys and other belongings into separate laundry carts, Cichowski, then a varsity assistant, watched them, and he didn't look happy.

"We all feared Chick," said Tim Clark, who knew him from a distance as a tough, no nonsense, coach, who demanded maximum effort from his players.

When the coach finally spoke, he delivered a message. "If you guys want to play football at New Trier East, then see me at 6 a.m. on Monday morning, at the indoor track circle (where the weight room was located)."

"We knew he was different," Clark said. "He was more like a General."

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, the freshman that wanted to be part of the winning tradition of New Trier football, reported to the coach. "Some of us played winter and spring sports, but before school, three days a week, we spent an hour lifting weights."

Things were different sophomore year. The Indians won five more games than the year before to finish 7-1. As juniors, five players cracked the varsity's starting lineup, when the Indians went 6-1-1 to win the Suburban League Championship.

### **The 1973 New Trier East Indians**

Returning to lead the offense was **Dave Harvey**, 6-0, 180, wearing number 12, a fine passer and runner, and a strong leader. Best of all, he was getting better. "He's going to be a good one," Cichowski warned after the third game in 1972. "He's got a way to

come, but he is improving.” After the Indians finished the 1972 season with a 24-6 win over Morton East, the coach shook his quarterback’s hand to congratulate him on a good season, and told him, “You’ve come a long way from mid-September.”

Harvey displayed great poise for a junior, especially when he guided the Indians on a now-or-never touchdown drive to beat Oak Park in the game’s closing seconds. With the ball at midfield, and facing the added obstacle of a muddy field, Harvey rolled out and fired a strike to John Castino for a twenty-two yard gain. He then rolled out again and completed a pass to put the ball on the 1 ½ yard line. With the crowd on its feet, and with Cichowski yelling, “Go for it! Go for it! Go for it!” senior fullback Ron Gion plunged into the end zone with eight seconds remaining to give the Indians a 6-0 win.

**Andy Binder.** Halfback. #40. The guy with the thick sideburns and the Fu Manchu mustache saw action as a junior. “(John) Castino is so good, I only get to play when he’s hurt.” Against Proviso East, after Castino left with a leg injury, Binder made the most of the opportunity by breaking a tackle en route to a fifty-five yard touchdown run to seal a 15-6 win.

**Dan McNerney.** Fullback. #39. He would start during the first half of the season, but would become an alternate after the coaches decided to convert a certain guard to his position.

**Dave Hall.** Wingback. Kick Returns. # 20 - An excellent athlete with a great physique for a receiver at 6’1, 190. He didn’t letter in 1972, but there wasn’t much doubt about his athleticism. He was fast, was a dependable pass catcher, and served as a multi-offensive threat. His speed made him ideal to run reverse plays, and for returning kickoffs. He starred on the Indians baseball team, a squad that was so loaded that one has to wonder

how they ever lost. In addition to Hall's power, last spring's team had future major leaguers John Castino and Ross Baumgarten.

**Jeff Nadherney.** Wide Receiver. #42. 6-3, 187, another reliable pass catcher for Harvey to throw to. He had good hands, and a talent for making acrobatic catches.

**Tim Hall.** Tight End, Defensive End, and Kicker. He played wide receiver his junior year, and kicked two extra points in the win over Glenbrook North. This year, he'd play tight end, start at defensive end, do the kicking, and serve as his senior class president. When he was in grade school, he tied a rope between two trees in his backyard to create a goalpost. "Someone tried to teach me how to kick soccer style, but I never got the hang of it." After an Indians touchdown, Hall would quickly change into his square-toed shoe to convert the extra point.

**Duff Stewart.** Center. # 54. 6-2, 180, also snapped on field goals and punts. "He was the best snapper I had- including college," said punter, Brad Fox.

**Al Hurley.** Guard/Nose Tackle. The wild man of the Indians, and the "Bwana Man," who led the team's pre-game ritual before each game. He played the game like it should be played-"for fun," although the centers around the Suburban League might not agree. Within the game's first few plays he would deliver a vicious forearm to the center's helmet that would "have him shaking in his boots" for the rest of the game.

**Clay Matthews.** Guard/Linebacker. # 65, 6-1½ , 218, a transfer student from California, he was disappointed to be leaving Arcadia High School where he had made all-conference as a junior, and helped lead the Apaches to a 7-2 record in the competitive Pacific League of Southern California.

He experienced a lot of pain in his knees and joints as a kid because he grew so rapidly, and it caused him to lose his speed. As a freshman, he weighed just 130 pounds. Before his junior year he began to gain weight, filled out, and his speed returned. "He is (major) college material," Cichowski said before the season.

**Al Pitt.** Offensive Tackle and Defensive Tackle – A good blocker who saw action in 1972, and threw a key block that sprung Binder for a fifty-five yard touchdown run against Proviso East.

**Jack Oberlin.** Offensive Tackle. 6-0, 200, saw little action in 1972. He was a hard worker. "Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, he would pick me up at 6:30a.m. and we'd go to the weight room," Binder said.

**Mark Gion.** Defensive Tackle. 5'11, 225. He was the heaviest player on a rather small team. He was the only junior to crack the starting lineup.

Gion hated being compared to his older brother, Ron, the starting fullback on the 1972 team who had enough talent to receive college offers. Mark had no intention of playing his sophomore year, until one day coach Roy May said "If your are not down there getting your equipment, and if you don't get your medical card, I'm coming to get you." He wasn't going to play in 1973, until his dad convinced him to go through two weeks of double practice sessions to see how he'd like it.

Before Ron left for college, he gave Mark some brotherly advise about Cichowski. "Listen to his first sentence. Then ignore the swearing and all the yelling. Then listen to his last sentence, because it is the first and last sentences that you'll need to know."

After earning a starting job on the defensive line, he worried about his varsity debut against New Trier West, wondering if he was qualified to play at that level. "I went up

against a 6-3, 210 tackle. On the first play I caught him with a forearm and flipped him over. I knew then that I was good enough to be here.”

**Jim Hardee.** Defensive End – “The hardest hitter on the team,” a teammate said. He was the most improved player on the team.

**Dan Goodman.** Guard/Linebacker. #66. He saw some action as a junior. This year he won starting linebacker position. He took Advanced Physics at New Trier West (it wasn’t offered at East), taught by Ed Heikkinen, a New Trier West varsity assistant. Before the two rivals met on September 15<sup>th</sup>, the student and teacher exchanged barbs over who would win. Goodman would find that the teacher took it more personally than he did.

**Tim Perry.** Guard/Linebacker. #68. Illness during the summer caused him to have a slow start. Although he played more than Goodman as a junior, he would back him up in 1973.

**Brad Fox.** Defensive Back and Punter. #26. 5-11, 170, a returning starter, and a hard-working, smart player, who was brilliant at reading offenses- “Fox would always tell us what play was coming.”

**Chico Denison.** Defensive Back. # 24. A returning starter on defense, and would share the halfback position with Binder this year.

**Roger Castino.** Defensive Back. #46. Didn’t start or see as much action as the other returning defensive backs in ‘72. He was a tough, aggressive, and would help comprise the best secondary Cichowski had ever had.

**Tim Clark.** Rover Back. #44. 5-9, 165, broke into the lineup his junior year after a senior had a bad game. Clark would also see action on offense, and would return punts.

Although his seniors didn't have a lot of experience, Cichowski made it no secret that he was depending on them. "First, we've got to have a lot of people come through for this team. Secondly, we can't have any injuries." And third, he needed the support of his assistants. Fortunately for Cichowski, he had a brilliant staff of "college level (type) coaches."

### **Coaching Staff**

**Jim McFadzean** coached the receivers. His older brother had coached football at Glencoe Public School, and had mentored most of the starters who backboned New Trier's mythical state championship team in 1935. Another brother averaged over four yards a carry in the 1934 game against Evanston, and a son scored thirty points against Niles East in 1965.

Coach McFadzean made his own contributions to New Trier football history. In 1938, as a halfback, he was selected to the all-state team. After his collegiate career at the University of Wisconsin, and after serving in the Navy during World War Two, he became New Trier's first freshman team coach in 1946, and served for many years as an assistant coach. "Jim was always over at our house to talk about football with Dad," recalls Ms. Shirley Hashbarger, the daughter of long time New Trier head coach Walter Aschenbach. "He'd often arrive before dinner, and say to my Mom, 'Hey Ann, what's cooking?'"

**Roy May** coached the running backs and linebackers. "May was intense. He'd get fired up while making a point, and would spit as he spoke," said one of the players.

“Roy May was exceptionally good,” Tim Hall insists. He was also highly respected by Clay Matthews.

**Jim Wagner** was the line coach, and a chemistry teacher. “He taught technique,” said Mark Gion. “He worked on steps, and practiced until they were engraved in your mind.”

**Ron Klein** coached the defensive backs, and Brad Fox on punting. He also served as the Indians baseball coach, and produced several great players who went on to play professionally. He had a great reputation among other baseball coaches throughout the country.

**Hank Bangser** coached the linemen. Taught history and political science. He was said to “bring energy and enthusiasm to work every day.” He played on the line at Williams College (in Massachusetts) before getting his PhD at Northwestern.

### **Chick**

Cichowski came to New Trier in 1961, following four seasons in professional football. His playing career began at Lane Tech High School, where he learned the meaning of hard-nosed discipline from his coach, George Ring.

**Coach Cichowski:** *“Ring was a strict disciplinarian, but was fair—and his discipline paid off. I’ll never forget the time he kicked our best player off the team for disciplinary reasons. He let the team vote the player back. But he showed that nobody, not even a star player, was bigger than his program.”*

After playing three varsity seasons for Ring, and speaking at his high school commencement as his senior class president, Cichowski enrolled at Indiana University,



and became the Hoosiers starting quarterback. In 1955 he won the team's MVP award. In 1957 the Pittsburgh Steelers drafted him in the later rounds. "Sure I remember Gene Cichowski," said former teammate Len Dawson, with a smile. "He played defensive back for us," and had more than a few collisions with the greatest fullback.

**Wally Gart (former head of the New Trier West PE department):** *"He said he once made a open field tackle on Jimmy Brown, then got up, and had no feeling. He made the tackle, and said he felt nothing. That was a story he used to like to tell."*

In 1967, Cichowski served as an assistant for New Trier West's first varsity team.

**New Trier West football player:** *Coach Cichowski had a rocket arm that he liked to show off. One time, as our head coach was speaking, one of the players was daydreaming, and Cichowski rifled the ball, which hit the player's helmet with a loud "clank." After that, we were sure to pay attention when our coaches spoke."*

In 1968, he had a second coaching job, this one as the head coach of the Lake County Rifles, a semi-pro team of the Central States League.

In 1970, Chick rejoined the staff at East, and the Indians finished 6-2, their best season since 1965. After the season, Herman "Ike" Schillereff stepped down as head coach to focus on his duties as the school's athletic director, and to take care of his health. Schillereff had Multiple Sclerosis. "During the games I use to shadow him in case he fell," recalls Cichowski.

"We want to find a man who has leadership qualities, and who is a responsible individual," said Schillereff, who was part of the search team for a new head coach. "I personally think we have some outstanding applicants for the job, and some of them are right here in our school district."

Cichowski was an applicant, but his chances didn't appear to be good. Erwin Weingartner, a dean who was part of the search team, and no pussycat when he coached under Walter Aschenbach in the 1950's and 60's, surprisingly opposed Cichowski's hiring, fearing that he'd be too tough on the kids. *The Wilmette Life* verified that he was an applicant, but believed he wouldn't be hired since the Rifles began their preparations for the 1971 season within a few weeks. When the decision was made, however, it was Cichowski, and his first act was to resign from the Rifles.

**Coach Cichowski:** *I'm sorry to give up the Rifles because they have a real organization. I enjoyed my relationship there, but I'm going to be teaching for the rest of my life, so I felt I had to go with New Trier. I am looking forward to the opportunity, and it's a real challenge because the Suburban League is such a fine league. I enjoy working with these kids, and I feel that we have some real fine coaches, too."*

**Ike Schillereff:** *"With his background and knowledge of these kids, Chick is very qualified for the position. He's developed a good rapport with the kids and their parents, and I am very happy with our choice."*

The new head coach made a successful debut, with a 33-7 win over Notre Dame of Niles. In his first season, the Indians won five, lost three, including a 30-0 defeat to Evanston.

## Part 2

*"I don't know, maybe I yell too much. But each time I talk to him (Harvey), he says 'it's all right coach'"*

--Coach Cichowski, on his relationship with his quarterback.

Dave Harvey wasn't handed the starting job his junior year, and he didn't know what his chances were, but figured "I'd give it my best shot." After winning the right to lead the team, he began to learn the coach's new triple option offense, the same offense used by the explosive attack of Bill Yeoman's University of Houston Cougars. "The quarterback must decide upon pitching, running, or handing off. That's a lot of pressure for a junior quarterback," said Brad Fox.

The season opened at Phelps Field, the home of the Indians, against New Trier West, in the first ever meeting between the two rivals on the gridiron. Bob Naughton wasn't expecting his Cowboys to encounter the triple option offense, but he had a game plan to beat the Indians secondary and their man-to-man coverage.

Before the season Naughton spoke with Tim Foli, his former quarterback during his coaching days at Loyola Academy. Foli, who was now starting on Miami's No-name defense, gave his former coach a play from the Miami playbook: one that was difficult to defend in man-to-man. In addition, Naughton had the perfect player for the play.

Rod McClendon played soccer in junior high because his parents didn't want him to play football. When he entered New Trier West his folks had a change of heart, and he played halfback during his freshman and sophomore seasons. Before his junior year he told Naughton he wanted to play end, and since New Trier West had the two "Little Scooters," Rich Sherman and Pat Carol, to run the football, the coach honored his wish.

The Cowboys got a break when an East senior said he would paint himself green and white if the Indians lost to West. In addition to having bulletin board material, Cowboys senior Scott Rooth spoke about Ed Heikkinen, a former New Trier East head coach for

four mediocre seasons (1966 to 1969). If he had desired to be an assistant more than a head coach, or if he was forced out, was not known, but Rooth played the card that Heikkinen had been canned, and this further fired up the Cowboys.

With no score in the first half, Naughton called Foli's play- "Miami Screen Right."

**Brad Fox:** *"McClendon was two steps faster than everyone on the field. Here I had to cover him, man-to-man, on that screen play, and I also had to cut through our entire defense to get from one side of the field to the other."*

**Rod McClendon:** *"I lined up in a tight formation on the left side, as if I was going to block. On the snap I took a few steps forward, then I stepped back, and sprinted through the backfield, to the other side of the field. The right side of our line released from their blocks, and moved to the right to set up in screen formation. After I caught the pass, I took off before my blockers were set. The coaches told me to wait for my blockers next time."*

Even without his escort, McClendon ran for a big gain to set up a Cowboys touchdown.

**Rod McClendon:** *"During the first half, I took a knee to the head and I was groggy. One of the lenses of my glasses popped out, and at halftime my Dad drove back to New Trier West, went into my locker, and got my other pair."*

Dad McClendon arrived in time for the encore of Miami Screen Right. After the Cowboys recovered a fumble at the start of the second half, the play was executed to perfection, with McClendon waiting for his blockers, and running for a touchdown.

The Indians offense sputtered. Harvey, trying his best to run the triple option, endured a tough afternoon. In the fourth quarter West made their third interception of the game, and when Pat Carol scooted 34 yards, the Cowboys capped the scoring in a 21-0 win.

Nobody could have expected that, not even the Cowboys. "Confidence grew after that game," said Cowboys assistant coach, Justin Ramp. "It taught us how good we could be," and the Cowboys were good enough to go undefeated.

**Coach Cichowski:** *"Probably my most disappointing day in football. I thought it would be a good game, but it wasn't even close. We just didn't do what we were supposed to do. What bothers me is we didn't see anything that we didn't expect to see, except when they sent the end through the backfield and out. Most of our defense is back from last year, and they were very sound. But the same people just aren't executing the way they should."*

Chick didn't hesitate to make changes. Dissatisfied with one of the seniors, he inserted Tim Clark into the defensive backfield. But his biggest switch was to scrap the triple option offense.

**Dave Harvey:** *"Chick didn't show us the game films. He said 'ok, that's it, we're going back to our regular offense.'"*

Using the regular offense the following week, the Indians scored on their first possession en route to a 25-6 win over Deerfield.

### **"Pigstino"**

John Castino didn't play football through his first three years of high school, but he couldn't resist during his senior year.

**Dave Harvey:** *"Pigstino (as Harvey use to call him) said 'I've got to play halfback for this team.'"*

**Roger Castino:** *"My brother watched our practices. He believed he could play for us. Coach Schneiter (New Trier East basketball coach) opposed it. He warned that an injury would jeopardize the basketball season, and could cost him a chance for a scholarship."*

Cichowski was aware that Castino was an exceptional athlete, and knew he would be a great addition to his team, but he had a policy about his players starting from the beginning, and enduring the daily double practice sessions before the season.

After the coach declined Castino's desire to be part of the team Castino's dad paid a visit. "I was cringing," the coach said about resisting his temptation to make an exception. "Sure I wanted him on the team, but in order to be fair to the others I had to stick with my policy."

But Cichowski decided to take one from the book of George Ring by putting it to a team vote.

**Roger Castino:** *"Chick said 'John Castino wants to play for this football team. He didn't start from the beginning, or go through double practices like the rest of you. You guys decide.'"*

"It was a no-brainer to vote for Pigstino," said Harvey. The rest of the team agreed. They voted unanimously in favor.

John Castino didn't suit against New Trier West, but started in the win over Deerfield. He scored two touchdowns, booted a pair of extra points, and after the game Paul Adams, Deerfield's head coach, asked Cichowski where this guy came from. "We didn't have him scouted."

## **Damn Wildkits**

**Bob Malinsky (New Trier and New Trier West Coach- 1951-1975):** *"When I went to Illinois, I played with Murney on the same team. He was as great of a player as he is a coach. I certainly hope some of that Murney Lazier magic has rubbed off on me, when we played in the same Illini backfield in 1948."*

Since becoming Evanston's head coach in 1957, Murney Lazier won twelve Suburban League titles, six mythical state championships, and 13 of 16 games against New Trier. Combined with winning their first four games in 1972, the Wildkits had won nineteen consecutive games until they lost, 14-12, to Oak Park. The defeat allowed the Indians to take sole possession of first place in the Suburban League.

When the Indians met the Wildkits at Evanston, both teams were affected by the weather and field conditions that created a quagmire, and neither team could generate an offensive threat. "It was hell for the quarterbacks," said Evanston signal caller, Frank Polacek. "The centers hands were covered with mud and so were the backs. My passes were thrown down. I couldn't get the ball in the air."

"The mud made the passes very hard to catch," said Glen Turner of the Wildkits. "And when you hit someone, you slid right off. It was hard to sustain a block."

The Indians finally mounted a drive to the Evanston fifteen before the clock expired to end the game in a 0-0 deadlock.

## **Clay Matthews Arrives**

William Clay Matthews Sr. played his college football at Georgia Tech before beginning his NFL career with the San Francisco 49ers. Following his rookie season in

1950, he spent two years in the military before returning to the 49ers. In 1955 he heard from a former teammate who had given up professional football for an executive position with General Motors. That was enough to convince Matthews Sr. that he was in the wrong profession. In 1973 he was promoted to an executive position by Bell & Howell, which required him to relocate to Chicago. When he asked his friends about the Windy City, they recommended Kenilworth as the best place to live.

Clay Matthews Jr. wasn't happy when his Dad broke the news. He was looking forward to his senior year at Arcadia, especially since colleges were recruiting him. He feared that relocating would be like falling off the face of the earth, and those scholarships might vanish.

Hoping to remain at Acadia for his senior year, Matthews arranged to move in with a friend and his family, but his Dad wouldn't allow it. Clay Matthews was about to become a member of the New Trier East football team.

One day on the practice field Cichowski was approached by two visitors.

**Coach Cichowski:** *"During our summer training program, Mr. Matthews showed up with Clay. He told me he was moving into the area."*

**Clay Matthews:** *"I remember the day my Dad and I met Chick. About ten days later I joined the team."*

During a summer session, Cichowski told his quarterback the good news.

"Hey Harv, guess what? A kid is moving into the district."

"Oh," the quarterback nervously replied, thinking he might hear that high school All-American Joe Montana was transferring from Pennsylvania.

"Yeah," said the coach. "Here he comes now."



Harvey looked and saw a 6-1 ½, 218-pound tank jogging. He knew this guy was no quarterback.

**Coach Cichowski:** *"Our last practice of the summer was a touch football game. One play Matthews made a one-handed interception. Coach May and I just looked at one another."*

**Clay Matthews:** *"At New Trier East I learned that if you show up, work hard, your teammates will accept you. The players helped make things great. They took me in. Chick also helped make things great, and he treated me fairly. So did the other coaches."*

The 1973 season officially began with two weeks of double practice sessions, and as always, Cichowski's team worked. Every morning and afternoon, they went through drills, practiced plays, hit the seven-man sled, and capped each practice with those dreaded wind sprints. The Indians also had a daily period of weight lifting. One morning, the coach announced that the equipment manager requested the players to take their cleats off before walking across the indoor track on their way to the weight room.

"Does that mean we don't have to lift if we keep our cleats on," quipped Bill Paine.  
"That's a mile," Cichowski replied.

"Put 'em in the nickel seats!" Cichowski would say during blocking drills. One morning the team was pounding away at the seven-man sled, and pushed it until it got caught at the top of the cedar track. Two guys pushed as Cichowski pulled the sled to get it back on the field, and it came down on the Coach's hand. With a bloody finger, Chick ran for help and yelled, "Ok, practice is done for this morning."

"I was happy that we didn't have to do wind sprints," Gion recalled. But that afternoon, with his finger bandaged, Cichowski was back on the field, as intense as ever, and finished the session with several rounds of wind sprints.

September fifteenth was circled on the Indians schedule. It was the first game, at New Trier West, the team that had dealt East its only loss in 1972. But the coach made it clear that this year's game with their rivals wouldn't be about revenge. "We just want to beat them," and get the season off to a good start.

Beating the Cowboys wouldn't be easy. Most of their starters were back from their undefeated season, including their quarterback, their fullback, and McClendon, who had been converted back to halfback.

The other circled date was October twenty-seventh, when the Wildkits came to Phelps Field to play the game that would most likely decide the Suburban League title. Evanston was ranked higher than the Indians in the preseason polls, and they were considered to be so good that the sportswriters were suggesting this could be Lazier's greatest team.

### **Part 3**

#### **Beat the Cowboys!**

*"He's the first real football player we've had at East."*

*Coach Cichowski- on Clay Matthews*

The New Trier East locker room was very subdued as the players dressed into green jerseys with white numerals, and white pants with green stripes on each side. As the players stepped onto the bus- carrying their shoulder pads and green helmets with white

arrowheads on the sides, and a white stripe over the top- not a word was spoken. The Indians were focused, and ready for the Cowboys.

“And the home of the- COWBOYS!” the New Trier West students shouted to the last verse of the Star Spangled Banner. On the Indians sidelines Al Hurley gathered his teammates.

Hurley: “Bwana! Bwana!”

Team: “Simba! Simba! Simba! Yeah!”

Rod McClendon caught Tim Hall’s opening kickoff, and returned it past the Cowboys thirty before being tackled, then fumbled. As the Indians scrambled for the loose ball, an official blew his whistle while pointing to the ground, to indicate that McClendon was down by contact.

A few plays later McClendon took a handoff, faked out Fox, and gained twenty yards. “Oh-no,” Fox thought to himself. “Here we go again.” Was today going to be a repeat of 1972?

The Indians defense held, and forced the Cowboys’ to punt from midfield. Matthews broke through and blocked it. Goodman picked the ball up and ran towards the end zone. **Dan Goodman:** *“I thought that if I ran with the ball in one hand, I could run faster, and believed I had a chance to score, but if I fumbled I knew I would hear from Chick, so I tucked it away. McClendon tackled me,”* at the Cowboys thirty-eight.

In seven plays the Indians moved to West’s one-yard line, and on the eighth play McNerney ran behind Matthews and plunged into the end zone.

The Cowboys drove into the Indians territory on their next possession, and called on McClendon. This time Matthews was there to greet him.

**Brad Fox:** *"Matthews made a crushing, shoulder tackle, and drove McClendon to the ground. I don't know if it was the impact of the tackle, or if the ground caused a fumble, but the ball popped up, about four or five feet into the air. I got a running start, caught the ball in stride, and I was ten or fifteen yards downfield before anyone knew what was going on."*

Fox covered fifty-eight yards on his fumble return for a touchdown.

The assistant coaches who watch the game from the press box are often referred to as "The Eye In The Sky." New Trier East's eye in the sky noticed that West's linebackers were blitzing more than expected, and telephoned Cichowski on the sidelines to let him know that if Harvey could get beyond the line of scrimmage, he could run a long way. Facing a third and seventeen from their own forty-nine, the coach sent in his play-the Quarterback Draw. Harvey dropped back, and then took off. With the help of great downfield blocking, he covered fifty-one yards for another Indians touchdown.

Down 21-0 at halftime, West's coaches talked about what they could do to get back into the game. McClendon made a suggestion. "I think we need to double team that linebacker."

"We already are," he was told.

During the first half Matthews broke his hand, but continued to play. "I had a boxers fracture," he said. "I did it while making a tackle."

"He played a better game in the second half, with a broken hand," according to Cichowski. But Matthews would sit out the next two games to let his injury heal. He would be back for the Suburban League opener, against Morton East.

In the third quarter, Harvey broke another one. He ran along the sidelines in front of the Indians bench, and traveled fifty-three yards for another touchdown. The Indians veteran quarterback finished with 102 rushing yards in a surprising 28-0 win. "We underestimated them," admitted Coach Ramp. "So did a lot of other teams."

**Brad Fox:** *"McClendon wasn't the same after that tackle by Matthews. I'm not sure if it was from that tackle, or from our defense, but I noticed that McClendon's glasses were broken, and the glass cut his cheeks below each eye."*

**Rod McClendon:** *"They also broke my nose. I was still sore the following Thursday which was unheard of. My back was still hurting from Matthews."*

**Mark Gion:** *"During the game I delivered a hit on Ribordy (all-conference fullback of the Cowboys) that snapped his head back. I was supposed to get the 'hit-of-the-week' award, but Coach May told me that they were going to give it to Fox. 'He's a senior' he explained. 'You'll have a lot of other opportunities to earn it.' I never did win the award."*

**Chick Cichowski:** *"The kids were mentally high for this game, and didn't want to lose to West this year, like they did last year."*

The Coach was pleased with his team victory, but said there was room for improvement. "Our tackling needs some work."

When asked about the fine down field blocking, especially on Harvey's first touchdown, the coach disagreed. "Our downfield blocking needs a lot of work."

Goodman was all smiles when he arrived in physics on Monday morning, but his teacher had no comment. "Heikkinen didn't speak to me for the rest of the year."

#### Part 4

*"What I remember is that if Chick was yelling at you, you knew he cared and wanted to make you a better football player. You accepted this as his way and didn't internalize it. If he stopped yelling at you...then you got worried."*

*- Brad Fox*

#### Game Films

If a player had a bad game, he had a lot to worry about when going into the weekly game film session. After a lackluster performance in a 28-0 win over Maine North, a perennial loser, some had reason to be nervous.

"He would isolate on a play where someone missed an assignment, or made poor judgment, and he would play it back and forth a few times. It wasn't to humiliate anybody, but you felt embarrassed, and you didn't want to look bad, especially before the entire team."

Chico Denison returned the opening kickoff 64 yards, but the Indians failed to capitalize. On fourth and one, they were stopped at the Maine North five yard line, and they were stuffed on two other fourth and one conversions.

"We looked flat," Cichowski said afterwards. "We made both physical and mental mistakes. We were lining up off sides, had too many missed assignments, guys were blocking the wrong way...we've got to improve if we are going to keep playing with everyone else."

On the bright side, Tim Clark ran for two touchdowns and returned a punt twenty-six yards to set up another score. Nadherney made a one-handed grab to keep a scoring drive intact, and Dave Hall capped an eighty-four yard drive with a sixteen-yard reverse for a touchdown. Andy Binder rushed for 100 yards, and Tim Hall booted four more extra points to increase his 1973 total to eight for eight.

The Indians defense chalked up their third consecutive shutout with a 34-0 trounce at Niles East, on a Saturday afternoon when most games around Chicago were postponed. "It was enough to make an arch float," a sportswriter wrote about the game.

**Dave Hall:** *"One of the funniest things I saw was when we came up to the line of scrimmage for our first play, the Niles East lineman opposite of Hurley roared like a lion. We all laughed, and so did Hurley, who told him we were going to kick his behind."*

Binder chalked up seventy-three yards, and scored a pair of touchdowns. Harvey ran for a score, passed for two more, and finished the afternoon with 109 passing yards.

Nadherney made a circus catch in the end zone. Tim Hall grabbed the other touchdown pass, and made four of five extra points. The defense was terrific, holding the Trojans to only three first downs, minus five yards in total offense, and no completed passes.

Whenever the Niles East quarterback dropped back, he was smothered.

Cichowski praised his team's effort. He also credited Brad Fox. "He's one of the best punters I've ever seen in high school ball." Fox was also having a great season on defense, and Chick mentioned the fact that he was "not getting the recognition he deserved."

Through three games, the Indians had yet to yield a single point, and two of those shutouts were without Matthews. Against Morton East the following Friday, he was due to return to action, but the coach made it clear that his starting job wouldn't be there waiting for him. "He'll have to earn his job back."

### Here Come the Kits

"They've got some personnel," said Hinsdale Central's head coach, George Strode, after the Wildkits pounded his team, 40-6. "You can beat them on one play, but they'll recover."

"We were prepared today," said Murney Lazier. Were they ever! They scored the first six times they had the ball, and didn't allow a first down until ten seconds remained in the first half.

Joe Stewart was the main threat in a great Evanston backfield that included 5'6, 170 pound Ben Schwarz. "I call him Water Bug," said Lazier. "He's about that size." And there was Wizard and Oz. Wizard was Dave Hoover, a junior quarterback. "He's got a lot of Evanston Savvy about him. I remember giving him swimming lessons when he was four-years-old." Oz was Brian Rosinski, another junior, who Lazier projected as a superstar. "He does so many things well."

Stewart looked great against Hinsdale: rushing for three touchdowns, and returning a punt ninety yards for another score. Hoover ran for a score, and threw for another one.

Evanston's other stars included linemen Mike Kenn, Bob Welch, and Glen Turner, who were all 6'6, Linebacker Steve Molitor, and wide receiver/defensive end JJ Osyra.



Going into October, and into Suburban League play, the *Chicago Sun-Times* ranked the Indians and Wildkits tied for second. In the *Chicago Daily News* Evanston was ranked second, the Indians were third. St. Rita topped both polls, and they were on top of the *Tribune*'s point system of wins, opponent strength, and other factors that had the Indians ranked fifth.

With Yom Kippur falling on Saturday, the Wildkits and Indians played their league openers on Friday afternoon. At Evanston, and with Miss USA in attendance, the Wildkits crushed Proviso East, 35-0. In the first half the swarming Evanston defense held the Pirates to just eleven yards. JJ Ossyra and Steve Molitor nailed the Proviso quarterback for a safety, and Glen Turner returned a fumble for another score. On offense Hoover continued to impress by throwing for another touchdown, and Rosinski scored on a twenty-seven yard run.

During the first half Evanston faced a fourth and inches, and as Hoover called the signals, a Proviso defensive back shouted for Stewart to "Come my way." "No, send him my way," the defensive end yelled from the other side. Stewart ran up the middle for thirty-three yards, and a touchdown.

At Phelps Field, Clay Matthews was back in the lineup, and won the hit-of-the week award with a jolting tackle at the line of scrimmage "that jarred the daylights out of the ball carrier."

The Indians won, 43-0. "They're the most well-balanced team we have played this year," said the Morton East coach. "They do everything well. Run, pass, block, and they're well-coached."

"I still don't think we are playing up to our potential," Cichowski said. "The thing we want to do is to keep on improving, that's what I emphasize constantly to the players. We've improved a little the last three games, but we'll still need to eliminate these little mistakes that can hurt you."

During the game, a Morton East end was hassling the officials out of frustration, and then began to take it out on Castino. After a play he took a swing at the New Trier defensive back, and Castino swung back. Flags were flying through the air as the two pounded away. Did Castino at least win the fight? "You never win a fight with our football equipment on." After the officials pried the two players apart, they were both disqualified.

**Roger Castino:** *"After the fight the Morton player kept yelling at the officials, and the officials were so caught up in the argument, they forgot about me. I intended on staying in the game.*

*A substitution came in for me and I told him to get off the field. He then asked the referee if number forty-six was out of the game, and I yelled 'No! You, you ...'"*

Later in the game, one of the reserve running backs told Gion and Paine that if the Morton defense began to punch or scratch as he carried the ball, he'd come up fighting. Sure enough, someone hit him, and he came up swinging. Right on cue, Gion and Paine stormed the field, but were headed off by Cichowski, who backpedaled to stay in front of them so he could clearly make his point. "Get your fat butts back on the bench!"

When the running back came off the field, he gave his two teammates some flack for not being there as promised.

Clay Matthews had not run with the football since grade school. So how did he feel when the coaches told him that they were converting him to the team's starting fullback? "What lineman doesn't want to run with the football."

As a 6-1 ½, 218-pound fullback, he was a menacing site to defenses. "When he carried the ball, other teams would take the angle on him rather than try to meet him head on."

Since Matthews made the switch during the course of the season, and never played running back in high school, he understandably needed support from Harvey and his teammates. "They would direct me before the play."

Against Waukegan, the Indians scored twenty-seven points in the first half while the defense held the Bulldogs to minus 18 rushing yards. In the second half they didn't score, and gave up their first touchdown of the year, when a Bulldogs running back busted one on a draw play.

"We played so well in the first half that the kids figured that Waukegan would just come out and die in the second half. I was a little disappointed in our hustle and our tackling."

Evanston kept pace with a 43-0 win over Morton East, and now the New Trier East-Evanston showdown in two weeks was beginning to loom.

*The Chicago Tribune*: "The stage is suddenly set for a showdown between the high scoring Wildkits and the hard as nails defense of New Trier East."

The Indians next opponent was a good Proviso team, and Cichowski wasn't going to let his team look ahead to Evanston. "They will be the toughest team we face to date. They're big, fast, physical, and well-coached," by Joe Kruppa- a former Steelers

teammate of Cichowski's. The Pirates were coming off an 8-6 win over Oak Park, had defeated New Trier West, 42-35, and were still alive for the Suburban League title.

New Trier East's offense didn't mess around. They marched 89 yards on the opening drive of the game, which ended with Harvey running five yards for a touchdown. During the drive, Harvey had connected with Denison for a 36-yard gain.

Tim Hall continued his fine season by partially blocking a punt in the second quarter to give the Indians possession at the fifty. Harvey and Nadherney connected for two passes, the second time for fourteen yards and a touchdown. After Hall made his twenty-second extra point in twenty-four tries, the Indians led 14-0.

The Pirates finally began to move to the ball, and drove to the Indians' goal line, but fumbled. In the third quarter the Pirates drove to the goal line, but were stopped on fourth down when Matthews and the Indians stuffed a quarterback sneak.

"I felt we played an adequate game on offense, but our defense was fabulous," said Cichowski. "Those two goal line stands were something. It takes a lot of desire to do it once let alone twice in one game."

Oak Park led 7-0 after the first quarter, but after that it was all Evanston. Stewart ran for four and sixty-seven yard touchdowns. Hoover scored once, and threw a touchdown pass to JJ Ossyra, and Rosinsky continued his good season with a touchdown run in a 35-7 win.

The stage was now set for a clash between New Trier East and Evanston, both 6-0, and heading for a showdown at Phelps Field. Nobody was making predictions, but one thing was for certain: the Indians and Wildkits game couldn't end in a tie as in 1972. The Illinois High School Association had adopted the Kansas Tie-breaker, where each team

would be given a set of downs from the ten-yard line in which to score. Additional overtimes would follow until victory was achieved.

There was something else the IHSA added for football. In the spring of 1973 609 high schools in Illinois voted on a state playoff- to begin in 1974. Thirty-one other states had them- including Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri- so why not Illinois? Sixty-six percent of the schools agreed.

**Coach Cichowski:** *"I think the state playoff system is good. Other sports have it (nine to be exact) and football players deserve the same recognition."*

**Chicago Sun-Times:** *"Evanston could ring in another in the multi-title career of Murney Lazier. Coach Chick Cichowski has other ideas for his unbeaten Indians."*

The media hype in Chicago was like the Ali-Frazier Super fight of the century in 1971, and Michigan State vs. Notre Dame in 1966. At kickoff- scheduled for 2:00 on Saturday afternoon- the World might stop turning.

**Roger Castino:** *"There were news cameras and reporters at our practices, throughout the week."*

On Friday, as New Trier East's student body had a homecoming rally, the temperature reached sixty-four. The forecast for Saturday called for a high in the mid-fifties, with a seventy percent chance of rain.

## Part 5

### The Mouth Guard Game

*"After the season someone collected all the mouth guards, and the rumor was they were sent to Evanston."*

*--Dave Hall*

**The Mouth Guard Rule** – *A player must wear that protective instrument in place during any action on the field.*

**Marty Miller (New Trier West Freshman Coach):** *"Let me tell you why you need to have your mouth guard in place at all times. In 1971 our sophomores scored a last second touchdown to beat Glenbrook South and seal an undefeated season. But the touchdown was nullified because the wingback didn't have his mouth guard in place. He wasn't even in the play. He was in motion to the opposite side."*

There was a steady downpour throughout the day on October twenty-seventh. The field condition was awful, especially after the freshmen and sophomores had played. It wouldn't favor either team. Both had potent offenses. Both had speed, and strong defenses.

The Wildkits boarded their bus, and headed to Phelps Field. Did they take a detour on the way?

**Tim Clark:** *"The rumor was that before a Evanston game at New Trier East, Lazier would have the bus drive along Sheridan Road and through Kenilworth so his players could have a good look at the mansions. He would tell them that these were the kids that were taking away their scholarships."*

In the second quarter Stewart broke one. He ran forty-eight yards, to the Indians' thirty-one, before Denison made the tackle, and then the ball popped loose.

**Brad Fox:** *"I saw the ball laying there and pounced on it, then skidded about five yards into the Evanston sidelines. I got up, ran towards the field, holding the ball up for the officials to see that I had recovered it, but they ruled the ball had gone out of bounds."*

Three plays later, Tim Clark picked off a Hoover pass, and the first scoring threat of the game was stopped.

The Wildkits limited the Indians attack to just four first downs in the first half- three of those by Matthews. The other came when Harvey and Dave Hill clicked for forty-four yards, to put the ball on the Evanston thirty-one, but the Indians didn't capitalize and turned the ball over on downs.

Late in the first half, the Wildkits moved the ball to midfield. From the sideline, Cichowski called on Goodman for a blitz. "They double teamed Hurley, and I had a clear path to the quarterback. He hadn't taken two steps when I got him."

Both teams went to their locker rooms at halftime in a scoreless game. A break would be needed to decide this one, and the Indians got it when the Wildkits fumbled the second half kickoff. Two plays later, Tim Hall came limping off the field after stretching ligaments in his knee. The Indians were in field goal range, but now faced a problem if Hall was not available.

Gary Clark, the New Trier East trainer, immediately worked on Hall. Chick asked Clark if he was ok to kick one, and Clark said he was.

On fourth down, after Binder and Matthews advanced the ball to the eight-yard line, Hall came on for the biggest kicking attempt of his life. Years of practice, kicking

between those two trees in his backyard, converting twenty-two of twenty-four extra points on the year, came down to this.

**Tim Hall:** *"In high school the hash marks are very wide, so I was kicking from an angle. I made the kick. In the picture you could see I am looking up after making the kick, which is a cardinal sin. A kicker can't look up until after he completely follows through."*

**Wilmette Life:** *"With all the strength he could muster in his leg, Hall kicked the pigskin hard enough to barely put it through."*

**Brad Fox:** *"Tim Hall's shoelaces were so muddy that he was unable to untie them so he could switch to his square toe shoe."*

**Tim Hall:** *"I'm 99.5 percent sure that I had my square toe shoe on. Changing into it was a messy job."*

Trailing 3-0, the Wildkits took possession, and Murney Lazier pulled a rabbit from his hat that caught the Indians defense flatfooted. Not even Brad Fox, who had a knack for knowing exactly which plays were coming, saw this one. JJ Ossyra took the ball on a reverse, and he appeared to have a ticket for the end zone.

**Brad Fox:** *"The reverse came to my side of the field. I was completely fooled. Thinking the play was going to the other side, I ran to the middle of the field before I saw the play materialize. As I recovered, the wide receiver knocked me down. I quickly got up, and ran after Ossyra. When I got close enough, I dove, and my shoulder pad hit the back of his calf to trip him up."*

Three plays later Evanston faced a fourth down from the Indians' eight, and Lazier sent in his field goal team. In case Lazier tried another trick, Fox, Clark, and Castino played



back in the secondary. Clark looked at the kicker, and noticed something hanging from his facemask. He turned to one of the officials, and asked, "Do kickers need to have their mouth guards in place?" Referee Joe Pomponi looked and noticed the kicker's mouth guard dangling from his facemask.

The kick went into the air, and "it was a beauty- high and far- right through the uprights."

**Brad Fox:** *"It was a beautiful kick that cleared by fifteen to twenty yards."*

But the Wildkits didn't celebrate. There was a flag on the field.

**Coach Cichowski:** *"We saw the flag, and my coaches said it was on Evanston."*

"What is it?" screamed Lazier.

The Officials huddled, and when their meeting adjourned, they walked off fifteen yards for the kicker's infraction.

**Roger Castino:** *"Murney Lazier came onto the field to argue, and he was just about in tears. He looked like a kid that was about to cry."*

When play resumed, Evanston faced a fourth and long. Hoover dropped back to pass, scrambled out of the pocket, and was tackled after gaining six yards to the seventeen. The Indians took possession.

In the fourth quarter the Indians drove deep into Evanston territory. On fourth down, with the ball on the Wildkits ten, Cichowski elected to go for it, rather than risk a costly mishap on a field goal try.

**Tim Hall:** *"My range was from thirty-six yards. My leg felt ok, and this time I would have been kicking from a straight angle."*

The Indians went for it, but didn't gain enough for the first down. Evanston took possession with only fifty-one seconds to play, and had to cross ninety yards of a muddy field.

Tim Clark picked off Hoover's pass and tucked it away for a New Trier East victory. When time expired, Chichowski was carried off the field on the shoulders of his happy players.

**Dave Harvey, in the victorious Indians' locker room:** *"We were really up for the game-we couldn't have wanted it more."*

**Tim Hall:** *"Give credit to (holder) Dave Harvey, and (Center) Duff Stewart, who never misses on a snap. It's easy to kick when you get help like that."*

**Coach Cichowski:** *"How do you like our secondary?"* (He asked the sportswriters with a big smile).

New Trier's secondary made four interceptions. "I caught the ball between my legs," said Castino about his pickoff.

**Brad Fox:** *"That evening, at the beginning of a newscast, the anchorman said 'in sports Notre Dame snaps USC's nineteen game winning streak, and New Trier East beats Evanston.'"*

The topic was the mouth guard, and as expected the two head coaches differed on their opinions.

**Coach Cichowski:** *"It's a rule, and it should be enforced."*

**Murney Lazier:** *"There's nothing we could do about it. We got screwed. It's a shame."*

After the game, the Evanston head coach went directly to the official's locker room to give them a piece of his mind. A few days later he was still seething.

"That fellow (Pomponi) has great eyes. He should be a forward auxiliary observer. If it was wet, it was raining, and he saw that through twenty-two people? I just can't see how he could call that."

**Coach Cichowski:** *"I think God was on our side of the field. The ref spotted the infraction, and he had to call it. It might be a cheap rule, but I am glad it was there this week."*

Through the years, the Indians have been accused of watering down the field to slow down the Wildkits running game, but no such thing was ever done. A watered down field would've equally affected the Indians, especially their superior passing game. The Indians quarterback faced another obstacle, this one from the officials not doing their job. "They didn't do a good job of keeping the ball dry," Harvey claimed. "It was hard to get a grip on it."

**Coach Cichowski:** *"I don't want to make anyone angry, but I think with good weather we could have scored more. Our passing is better, but Harvey couldn't throw today. They might have had better success with Stewart, too."*

The next day Dick Butkus scored the only touchdown of his career, after recovering a fumble in the end zone, but it was the other game in Chicago that was the bigger story.

"Did you say St. Rita lost?" St. Laurence head coach Tom Kavanaugh asked a sportswriter. "No, I don't believe it. You must have reversed the score."

It was what was called "the upset of the year," Fenwick hammered the Mustangs, 33-14, and New Trier East became the top rated in all Chicago area polls, with Evanston placing second.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Indians traveled to Oak Park to play their last game of the season. Coming off an emotional win, Cichowski worried about a letdown. “All week we told them that Oak Park was a good physical football team, and we’d be in trouble if they got uncorked against us.”

On the opening kickoff, Tim Hall made a line drive kick that didn’t give his teammates enough time to get downfield. The Oak Park return man ran all the way for a touchdown to put the Indians behind for the first time in 1973.

“Ok. Now we’ll see what you guys are made of,” Cichowski told his team.

**Tim Hall:** *“I could see he was steamed, but he didn’t say too much.”*

**Tim Clark:** *“We were feeling proud, impressed with ourselves, but that return was a wake up call.”*

**Mark Gion:** *“I was mad. I couldn’t wait to get onto the field.”*

**Dave Hall:** *“A deathly silence came over our sidelines. It was a wake up call.”*

**Tim Hall:** *“It was a slap in the face. But we didn’t panic. When our offense came onto the field, we had a ‘let’s make it happen’ type attitude.”*

Did the Indians answer? They scored on their first three possessions for a 21-7 lead at the conclusion of the first quarter. In the second quarter they faked a field goal, and Harvey found Nadherney for a touchdown. Dave Hall gave the Huskies a dose of their own medicine by returning the second half kickoff eighty-five yards for a touchdown. Then Harvey did it again, with a 62-yard scoring strike to Denison, and then connected with Nadherney for another score that left the Oak Park fans groaning.

“Harvey is the best quarterback we have seen all year, just a devastating passer,” said Oak Park’s head coach, Henry Zambal.

The Indians won, 47-15, and afterwards the New Trier East student body shouted for a game against number one rated Ohio State.

Sports reporter: "Who is number one, New Trier East or Evanston?"

Henry Zambal: "Today New Trier East was better than Evanston."

Sports reporter: "Yeah, sure, ok, but who's number one?"

Henry Zambal: "New Trier's line is stronger. Their offense is a little bit better. They just overpowered us off tackle. They may not be as good on defense as Evanston, but they are certainly plenty tough."

Sports reporter: "But who should be number one in the state?"

Henry Zambal: "Well, I'd say they're the best team we played against."

Sports reporter: "Does this mean they're number one?"

Henry Zambal: "Yes, I'd say they deserve to be number one."

Sports reporter: "Does your team deserve to be number one, coach?"

Coach Cichowski: "We have a heck of a football team. And a lot of people I know who have seen St. Rita play have not been impressed. They're big, but not fast. We'll be looking forward to playing them next year (in the state playoffs). I just wish we could have had the playoffs this year."

Some believed the Chicago Catholic League was better than the Suburban League, and questioned if New Trier East was the best team, but the issue was solved when the Mustangs lost to St. Laurence in the Chicago Catholic league playoffs to clear the way for the New Trier East Indians to the Illinois Mythical State Championship.

*Chicago Sun-Times: "Although New Trier East didn't get a chance to show its talent state wide, it did enough hard hitting in the Chicago area to be named the Sun-Times prep football team of the year."*

## Part 6

*"I guess we're surprised, but we should've known better. These kids are winners. They don't know what it's like to lose."*

*--Chick Cichowski, on his 1973 team.*

### Honors for the Indians:

Duff Stewart, Tim Clark, John Oberlin, Jeff Nadherney, Dave Harvey, Dave Hall, Al Hurley, Mark Gion, Tim Hall, Clay Matthews, Dan Goodman, and Brad Fox all won All-Suburban League honors.

Harvey was named All-State. He threw for 916 yards, completed 55 percent of his passes, averaged 19 yards per completion, and ran for 407 yards.

Andy Binder rushed for 516 yards.

Matthews, who also was selected for the All-State team, averaged eleven tackles per game.

Fox averaged 41 yards per punt. The best in the Big Ten was an average of 42.3. He was on the All-State-honorable mention list. So were Jeff Nadherney, Jack Oberlin, Al Hurley, Tim Clark, Duff Stewart, and Tim Hall.

**Cichowski on Dave Harvey:** *"He really came a long way as our quarterback. He did everything well-a real good job at ball handling, and a great year throwing. He has a*

*by far the best high school quarterback I've seen this year. "*

**Coach Cichowski on the others:** *"Tim Hall is an underrated player- we have a lot of underrated players. I felt Denison should have been all-conference.*

*Duff Stewart, Tim Hall, John Oberlin, and Dave Harvey could play college ball somewhere. Matthews could play wherever he goes. Clay can play at any college in the country. He has the physical tools and, perhaps most important, he has a great mental attitude. He really wants to play professional football. That's a big plus in his favor. "*

**Murney Lazier:** *"Matthews is the best linebacker I have ever seen in our league. "*

The Matthews family moved back to California, but returned to Kenilworth in time for Clay's younger brother, Bruce, to play his freshman season in 1975.

**Brad Pierce (All-State quarterback in 1978):** *"No, I had no inkling that Bruce would be in the hall of fame some day. They tried to make him like his brother. He played linebacker. He was great for us on offense. "*

The 1975 New Trier East freshmen went undefeated. After the school year, the Matthews family moved back to California for good.

At the annual Indians football banquet, Roy Leonard served as the MC, and Bears quarterback Bobby Douglass and wide receiver George Farmer were the guess of honor. The Bears head coach, Abe Gibron, who was as tall lying down as he was standing up, was expected to attend, but didn't make it "when he got the report that there wouldn't be enough food."

"It's nice to be associated with a winner," said Bobby Douglass.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, eight members of the Indians were invited to another banquet, this one at the Grand Ballroom of the Concord Hilton, which was co-sponsored by the *Chicago Tribune* and the Coca-Cola bottling company of Illinois. Each recipient received a Golden Helmet and a Certificate of Merit, signed by Cooper Rollow, sports editor of the Tribune. Dave Harvey, Clay Matthews, Dave Hall, Jeff Nadherney, Jack Oberlin, Duff Stewart, Tim Clark, and Brad Fox all received the award.

Clay Matthews played at USC, and in the Rose Bowl. He was drafted in the first round by the Cleveland Browns, played for nineteen seasons, and was a four-time All-Pro selection. Perhaps his next stop will be in Canton, where he would join his brother in the Hall of Fame.

**Clay Matthews:** *"Whenever I meet a kid who is going to transfer during high school, I understand what he's going through."*

Dave Harvey played at Wabash College, and led them to the division three national championship game in 1976, where they lost in triple overtime to Widener College, 39-36.

After graduation, Dave Hall was drafted by the Chicago Cubs, but elected to play at Rollins College, where he once again became teammates with John Castino. In 1976, he was drafted by the Montreal Expos and played in their system for 3 ½ years before deciding he'd had enough baseball, and went back to college to earn his degree.

John Oberlin played at De Pauw. Duff Stewart played at Illinois State. Tim Hall played at Colgate. Chico Denison and Jeff Nadherney played at Dartmouth. Tim Clark played at Georgetown.



Brad Fox played his freshman year on Stanford's JV before switching to baseball, then returned to football to punt, and arrived in time to play for another great coach- Bill Walsh.

Dan Goodman entered a six-year medical program at the University of Michigan. Al Hurley runs his consulting business today the same way he played football- "It should be fun."

Cichowski coached New Trier East for seven more years, and when the two New Trier's merged in 1981, he coached for another ten seasons. He accumulated 145 wins, won six more conference championships, and went to the state playoffs nine times. In 1982 his team made it to the 6A State Championship game. But it wasn't the winning that made the coach great: it was preparing young men for life.

**Coach Cichowski:** *"A player who graduated in 1976 told me about an interview he had at a large bank and how frightened he was. Then he thought about our practices and said to himself 'If I can do that, I can handle this.' That was the greatest compliment I could have had."*

**Tim Clark:** *"My brothers also played for Chick, and we once sent him a plaque, naming him as the greatest coach we ever had."*

**Mark Gion:** *"I always gave credit to Chick for never comparing me to my brother."*

**Dave Hall:** *"I loved playing for Chick. He was a complete professional in managing his staff, and motivating his players. He was a disciplinarian that was needed during the turbulent times (of the early 1970's). He made sure you played hard, and played smart."*

**Tim Hall:** *"All the parents liked him. They absolutely had no issues."*

**Coach Cichowski:** *"If I did it all over, I would live my life the same way. I wouldn't change anything."*

That's great news, because nobody would ever want this coach to change.